

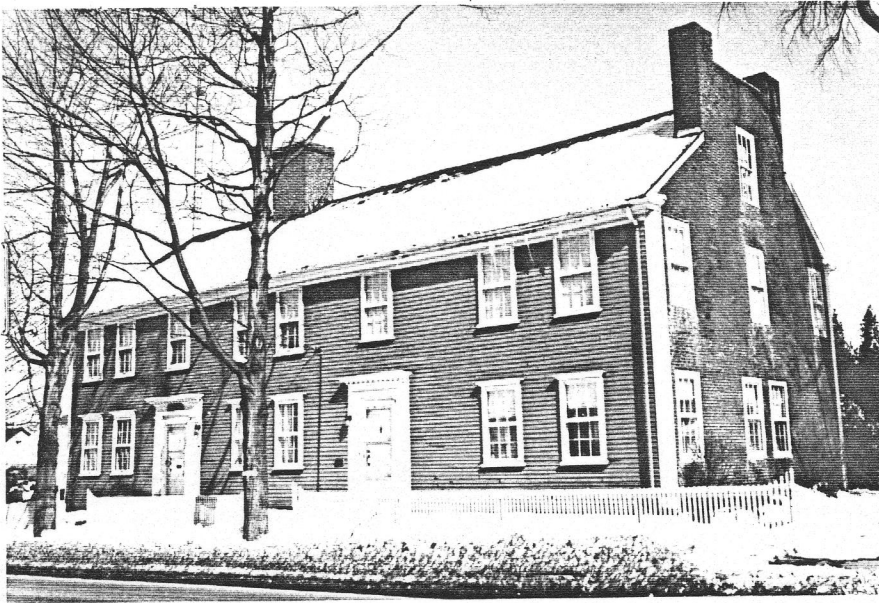
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA

FORM NO.

413

LexingtonAddress 331 Bedford StreetHistoric Name Simonds Tavern

Present residence (+ rental, south end)

Original residence; tavern 1802-1828

DESCRIPTION:

c. 1795 north end; 1810 south endSource owner, John and Jean ShanahanStyle Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboardOutbuildings old barn, now two-cargarage

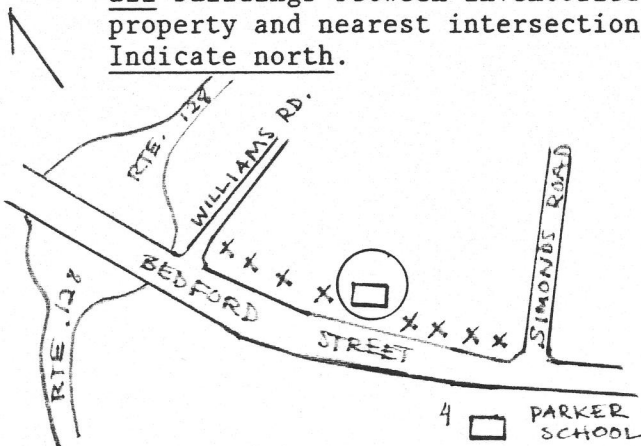
Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____
(20' from street)Approx. acreage one acre or less (75' frontage)

Setting _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.



Original Owner: Joshua Simonds

Recorded by Elizabeth ReinhardtOrganization Lexington Historical CommissionDate January, 1976

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

North end: five bays wide, center chimney, dentil course at cornice, handsome door with crossetted architrave, fluted pilasters, simple entablature with straight modillioned cornice. Graduated clapboards on north end. South end: 1810 expansion continues dentil course at roof cornice, door nearly the same as north end but with crossetting. South end brick with twin parapet chimneys. Interior noteworthy for fine panelling in north end living room and dining room. Smoke chamber access off stair landing into center chimney.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Joshua Simonds (1770-1858), son of Minute Man Joshua Simonds, married Abigail Cutler 1794. Joshua Simonds kept a public house on what is now Massachusetts Avenue at the foot of Fiske Hill, as well as opening this as a tavern in 1802. The town increased greatly when the new section of Bedford Street was cut through in 1806 leading to the 1810 addition. The bar was placed at the juncture of the two sections so both doors opened to barroom space. Simonds tavern was one of 12 taverns which served the drovers bringing cattle and goods down from Vermont and New Hampshire.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington.

Proceedings, Lexington Historical Society, Volume I, 1880. "Old Taverns"

SPNEA. Picture file has photographs of interior panelling (1926; but 1976 panelling still intact)